

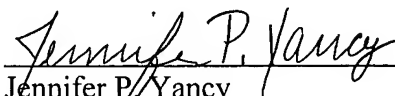
REMARKS

Claims 75 and 76 stand rejected under 36 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has canceled claim 75 to overcome this rejection. Claim 76 has been amended to depend from claim 74. Applicant respectfully submits that the expression "pre-leaching stage" does further limit the plant structurally. The "pre-leaching stage" is a structural limitation in the plant. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claim 76 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 48 and 74 are allowable. Claim 75 has been canceled and claim 76 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections are overcome and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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